

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

April 3, 2001

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Pinard.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Cashin, Hirschmann

Absent: Aldermen Pariseau and Thibault

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Lillian Duval, 1370 Front Street, #41, Manchester stated:

I am here to speak about the senior center. How long has it been? We hear from different Aldermen and from our Mayors – Mayor Wiczorek and Mayor Baines you will get your senior center. Mayor Baines, you had the chance and you blew it. All of these people failed to tell us that it would take 50 years to erect. Does anyone in particular stand to make any profit if we go to the Sears building? Mr. Cashin, you are the Dean of the Aldermen. What difference will it make to you by pushing the Maple Street site? Also, I mentioned Maple Street. How many cars will we be able to park? Let's not forget that we need more money to finish the Skateboard Park or whatever. We have

Hunt's Pool. Now the seniors are sandwiched between Hunt's Pool and the park all summer long with kids on both sides. We have JFK and we have the athletic field, which is Gill Stadium. We also have Beech Street School. A lot of landlords of private properties like Aubin, Greenstreet, etc., all of these places I mentioned utilize JFK parking lot so the overflow of the senior center – where do we park, especially on overnight trips? How safe are the seniors at the Maple Street site? Mr. Mayor and all of the Aldermen who attend our Christmas party, some of you have spoken to us and said in loud voices the seniors will not be forgotten. You will have your center. We are seniors and I speak for myself when I say we all believed you. Now I am not so sure. I do have something to look forward to. In 23 years on April 12 I will be 100 years old. If I live that long, I might see and I repeat I might see a new center and I will still be with all the nice people I have met through the years at the center and on senior trips. By the way, this is an election year. So far we have one Alderman running for Mayor and it came to my attention that he is the only one for the senior center so far. Thank you.

Estelle Tardiff, 180 Woodbury Street, Manchester stated:

I do feel that we do need the senior center. What would we do if we didn't have that? We are there three and four times a week. Would we sit at home just looking at the four walls? That is not a life for us to finish. We do need that. We need the company of people our age and then we are not a burden to our kids. This way, we enjoy the center, we take the trips with them. Claire advises us on everything that we look forward to if we need any help of any kind. She tells us who to see. Claire is just someone at the center. We just couldn't do without it. Thank you.

Velvet Bussiere, 32 Readey Street, Manchester stated:

I am a resident and a business owner in the City. My comment is that department heads have put me in a very difficult situation. In this case, the ZBA, forcing me to appeal a case to the Superior Court. I won't go into specifics about my case. I will say that I had discussions with the zoning inspector about the structure going up next door. He was not helpful and told me to get an attorney and a survey and that this was a civil case. After three ZBA meetings for variance requests and \$5,000 in attorney fees and survey fees, I presented my case to the Superior Court. On August 30, 2000 Judge Brennan ruled in my favor. The Superior Court ruled that the decision of the ZBA should be reversed. Here we are in April. The Building Department still has not enforced this order. Instead, they offered this applicant another solution. They give her an application for an equitable waiver. Tomorrow I will be at the ZBA defending this case again. I would like to know where in the statutes it says that the ZBA has the authority to overturn a Superior Court order that I was granted on August 30, 2000. That is my question. I have this meeting tomorrow. I feel that I have been treated unfairly by this City. I was forced to get an attorney, forced to have surveys done and I have done nothing wrong and I am being

punished. I have this order. The City doesn't care. I will be forced to go back to Superior Court and see that the City uphold this court order.

Mayor Baines stated I know that my staff has been working with you to try to resolve this.

Ms. Bussiere replied I appreciate that.

Lucille Stevens, 100 Woodcrest Court, Manchester stated:

Tonight my remarks are going to be very brief and to the point. Prior to May 1, you will face the decision to renew the lease of the senior center on Hanover Street. \$47,600 is a lot of money to pay for rent of a facility that no one goes to. The only time you see seniors in that location is when they offer an inexpensive trip to Foxwoods and then the seniors show up to pay for their bus fare. Other than that, it is empty. The decision to renew the lease is an easy one. Save the taxpayers some money and discontinue an unused senior center. Thank you.

Linda Garrish, 7 Irwin Drive, Manchester stated:

I am here to talk about soil contamination at the Pine Grove Cemetery as a result of civic center soil site dumping. It is with great concern that I address you tonight and follow-up my letter to Jay Taylor of March 15 and copies to you, his copied response and referral of the questions and the copied response from Robert Mullin, P.E. Senior Engineer of Haley & Aldrich, Inc. I have enclosed their letters in my packet to you for your reference, Exhibits I and II. Now you are responsible for the civic center project and its direct and associated costs and for the soil contamination problem associated with the project site, as well as it's clean up and remediation. Unfortunately, I do not believe that Mr. Mullin answered my question satisfactorily nor that the contamination issue has truly been remediated and resolved to the human and environmental health and safety of our community. I would refer you to the following timeline of events and the associated and marked exhibits after the contaminated soil was found. This will explain and emphasize my concern. Essentially what you are seeing in the first several exhibits are discussions about what contaminated soil is and where it can be reused and where it cannot be reused. It cannot be reused if it meets S-1 or above standards. Also, I want to call your attention to Mr. Mullin's letter to DES understanding those rules and understanding what needs to be done with the soil that was going to be removed. I won't bother reading that for you as you have that in front of you. I would also refer you to the facts from Mr. Mullin to DES regarding the civic center soil for proposed off site reuse and that is a poly aromatic hydrocarbon report of June 28, 2000, sample 54888. Please see these results and note that they actually create the footprint for the contamination of the soil at the civic center site and note that a hand note by Ms. Kenison from a waste reduction from the DES noted

that it was not suitable for off site use because it exceeded the S-1 standards. There are three in particular toxins listed that are carcinogenic – Benzo (a) anthracene at 4.10 milligrams per kilogram and the standard is .7. Benzo (a) pyrene at 3.10 and the standard is .7 and the Indeno (1, 2, 3-cd) pyrene at 1.10. I give that to you as a standard and as a footprint. Beyond that, you see Peter Levy's signed note of the transfer, but it was signed after apparently the transfer was received at Pine Grove Cemetery but we have observations and notes to the affect that it took over a long period of time. Last January, several of us noted...we were talking about the concerns about where that soil was going. I visit the cemetery quite frequently because I have family nearby and I live right beyond the park and the playground that is within a couple of hundred yards of the site where, in fact, the piles were dumped. I will let you read what we saw. I will let you note the pictures that document that. I will let you note the pictures that document that children have been sliding in that very area on those very piles. We did an independent review. We did an independent study. The study was done through the same company that the civic center used. The study that we did is so relevant and so important, your Honor, that it is important that you let me finish here. I want to tell you that the last report that you see shows that those same three carcinogenic toxins were above the standard and they were found at Pine Grove Cemetery where people walk, cemetery workers walk, where the workers who dumped it walk, where neighbors walk and where children were sledding. In conclusion, it is of grave concern to me that that soil said to be clean and dumped at Pine Grove Cemetery from the civic center project site is and was contaminated in excess of S-1 standards as prohibited by state and federal laws. I continue to be concerned about the human and environmental health and safety of workers, neighbors and cemetery visitors...

Mayor Baines interjected I really need to stop you. We are trying to adhere to the two minutes.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

It is nice to see that things can get done, your Honor. Several weeks ago when I was in here I complained about the snow on Hanover Street by East Side Plaza. At 6 AM the very next day, it was being removed. Thanks for taking care of it. The *Union Leader* reported here, they have got a piece out of the memorandum of understanding on the civic center and, your Honor, I am going to up my anti. \$200 to any charity this Board decides that they want me to donate to to prove me wrong in that somebody else is responsible for the private loans from the banks to the civic center. No one else is responsible but the City. Prove me wrong and I will make a donation for you. 400 additional parking meters. Alderman O'Neil, you were right. You didn't buy into that. You haven't seen anything yet on that. The senior center...you better start issuing these things out, guys, some pacifiers because that is what you have been doing to them. You

have been pacifying them for a long time. If you vote for the Teamster's Hall, that will be a disservice to them with the Skateboard Park going in right next to it. Bad choice. Club Liquid. I have to question why the Administration Board shut that place down. My information comes strictly out of the newspaper. Why didn't the original assembly permit require police and fire personnel to be present? You do it at other clubs. Why didn't you do it at that one? The question is what if...questions on the Coconut Grove fire that people put out. Well how about if there is another Chicago fire? The sprinkler system was disconnected twice because the landlord didn't pay the water bill. What would the City's liability have been if there was a fire that originated in that building that could have been doused by the sprinkler system but it had been deactivated by a City agency and the City block burned down. What would your liability have been then? The question is to the Administration Committee that pulled the permit on that. I think you should go back and revisit that and do it for the kids. Charge the guy a fine for what he charged for the 200 kids that he was over capacity and require that he have police and fire personnel present. I think the situation could have been handled a lot differently but again, your Honor, prove me wrong and I will make a donation for you.

Les Gomez, 3048 Brown Avenue, Manchester stated:

I am here to speak on the Airport expansion project. I know the expansion project has gotten somewhat out of hand. Plans have been changed and it directly affects me and my family. It seems like everyday the plans are changing. I met with the Airport Director, Kevin Dillon, a little over a year ago and during that meeting we discussed my part of the expansion project and the eminent domain at that time. We discussed that I was not part of the imminent domain but they do want to make an offer. I agreed to listen to them. I have no problem with the expansion project. I understand what is going on but from what I see their business practices aren't ethical. They are using scare tactics. I have documentation from people who have had expressed interest in my property and the Airport has sent them documentation saying to stay away from it because they are basically taking whatever they want. I hate to see this matter go into litigation, but it does look like it is heading that way. That is all I have to say.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted for the record that a letter was delivered addressed to the Board. We did distribute the letter to members of the Board. It is from a Mr. Pelletier who owns property at 3114 Brown Avenue and it is regarding concerns with the Airport.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk